

REMARKS

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. 1.114. A final office action was issued Aug. 1, 2006. Claims 1-52 have been cancelled. New claims 53-60 have been added.

As to the rejections of the previous claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Johnston and Cummings, the reaction of an isocyanate with water may lead to the formation of a primary amine, and this primary amine can then react with the isocyanate to form a very small amount of urea. However the amount of the urea formation is so small as to be inconsequential. The reaction of the isocyanate and water also create CO₂, which creates gas bubbles. This can (and often is) formulated around by using defoamers (which are just solvents that allow the gas to escape before the urethane solidifies). However, the amount of the urea species present must remain relatively low, or all the gas would never escape, even in a low solids system. Therefore, this species is at best, a copolymer of very low co-monomer content. In essence, this is a urethane with possibly a few urea groups inserted. This is not a urea backbone. For this reason, the references to teach away from the applicant's invention.

In addition, Johnston teaches the amine must be ethoxylated. This leads to URETHANE formation, not urea. The reaction of the isocyanate with water gives a non-fatty tail amine, and the reaction of this amine with the isocyanate may yield a minor urea product that is not the species claimed.

For these reasons, the examiner will find that the new claims are allowable. The examiner is respectfully requested to place the case in condition for allowance at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully Submitted

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